

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-5 are now in the application and subject to examination. Claim 6 has been cancelled.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claim 2 has been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. More specifically, the Examiner has stated that it is not clear whether a "hollow groove" recited in claim 2 is formed by an adhesive.

As disclosed in page 12, lines 6-12 of the specification and Figs 1 and 2 of the instant application, it is clear that the "hollow groove" 5 refers to the surface shape of the adhesive formed on the overhang between the chip 1 and the island 4. According to the instant application, the development of the adhesive in the form of "hollow groove" is a quality criteria for judging the quality of the adhesive connection.

It is accordingly believed that claim 2 meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved.

In item 4 on pages 3-4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-5 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Lim et al. (US Pat. No. 5,773,878) in view of Inaba (US Pat. No. 4,258,381) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

a ratio between the base area of said integrated circuit and the base area of said island being from 0.7 to 0.9 for avoiding flexure of said housing.

The essential feature according to claim 1 of the instant application is that the ratio between the base area of the integrated circuit and the base area the island is from 0.7 to 0.9 in order to avoid flexure of the housing. This is the core concept of the invention of the instant application, because the desired effect can only be achieved if the area ratio is within the range from 0.7 to 0.9. This range of area ratio is disclosed neither in Lim et al. nor in Inaba.

The Examiner has stated that the ratio between the length of the IC and the island is 0.75 as measured from the dimensions in Fig. 2 of Lim et al.. Applicants respectfully disagree with this opinion for two reasons. First, the area ratio cannot be seen from the drawings of Lim et al., because only a cross-sectional view but no top view is provided. A length ratio is clearly not the same as an area ratio. Second, according to US patent practice the drawings do not necessarily show the actual proportional relationship of the elements. Therefore, it is improper to conclude from the drawings the actual size ratio. Furthermore, it is especially improper in the instant case because it is not mentioned anywhere in Lim et al. that the area ratio plays a roll to the invention.

Clearly, neither of the cited references shows that a ratio between the base area of the integrated circuit and the base area the island is from 0.7 to 0.9, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since claims 2-5 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

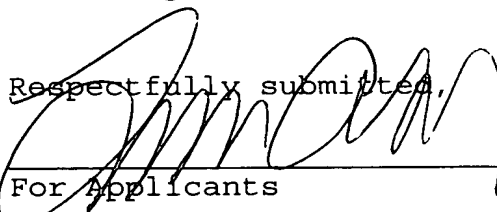
In item 5 on page 5 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 6 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Lim et al. (US Pat. No. 5,773,878) in view of Inaba (US Pat. No. 4,258,381) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claim 6 has been cancelled.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, he is respectfully requested to telephone counsel so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


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